

INSTIT. FÖR TUMÖRBIOLOGI  
KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET  
STOCKHOLM 60  
DEPT. OF TUMOR BIOLOGY  
KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET  
STOCKHOLM 60

November 26 1958

Klein

Professor Josuha Lederberg  
Department of Medical Genetics  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisc.  
U.S.A.

Dear Josuha:

Many thanks for your letter and for your telegram. I am sorry to have bothered you with the latter but Esther's participation is a point of crucial importance and your letter to Liljestrand caused a minor panic in The Nobel Foundation. Placement at the King's dinner and at the Nobel banquet seems to be a matter of high significance and programs and placement-lists of various kinds must go to the printer tomorrow. So your telegram brought great relief.

Personally, we <sup>would</sup> should have been really very sad if Esther ~~not~~ have been able to join you and we are happy that you can work it out.

I am sorry I misunderstood the kind of card you had in mind. We shall try to get a post-card of the type you have indicated. The Swedish Post Office has issued a stamp commemorating Nobel several years ago but I do not know whether it is available or not. We shall find this out from the Post-Office.

I shall be delighted to act as your local representative. The only thing I have accepted so far on your behalf was an invitation from the Ambassador of Israel to both you and Esther and Eva and myself to be his guests for dinner on Friday night, December 12. I notice in your letter that you envisaged lunch rather than dinner. I don't know which would be more suitable; I have now accepted the dinner invitation but may try to change it to lunch if you consider it necessary. On the same day you will have to visit the Nobel Foundation between 10 and 12 a.m. to conduct the business transaction and there will be a reception at the American Embassy between 5<sup>30</sup> and 7 p.m. Perhaps the dinner might be easier after all, also because the Institute will have a Lucia festival at 3 p.m. where your presence would be certainly appreciated (although everybody will understand if you will be unable to come).

I don't think that your arrival on Sunday would be possible in incognito. I am quite sure it would create very bad feelings, particularly as regards the Nobel Foundation. Incidentally, I hope that you realize that, although I am very happy to be your local representative, your dealings with the Nobel Foundation (Stähle) and the Nobel Committee of the Karolinska Institute (Friberg, Euler, Liljestrand) are of great importance for the people concerned and it is very easy to hurt their feelings in this country of understatements. As to the reception at

the airport, there is always a small committee from the Foreign Ministry, your Embassy and the Karolinska Institute (in this case I shall probably represent the latter). Perhaps it is unnecessary for me to point this out, but the Foundation is the special pride of the country, the prize is the special pride of the foundation, and the prize-winners are the pride of everybody, including people with very sensitive toes. The fact for instance that you have written me a beautiful letter and telegram of thanks personally (which I very much appreciated) would by no means satisfy the official people in the Foundation; in fact they would never hear about it. This may be absolutely unnecessary to point out, but you asked for advice and here it is; if you feel that it was superfluous than I hope you will ~~excuse~~<sup>excuse</sup> me. As to the arrival at the airport, I am afraid it would create a great deal of unpleasantness if it would not be done in the traditional way; since it will be rather late, I am sure it can be made quite short. Please let me know if you object to this, but I think that it may save us both from a lot of nonsensical trouble if we do it the usual way.

For Monday there are no particular ~~plans~~ plans and I shall try to save this day for you as much as I can for your recreation. The bacteriologists would like to see you and speak to you but they don't want to insist in case you are busy or tired. We do not have to make any decision about this now; we may discuss it after you have arrived. On Tuesday Caspersson hopes to see you together with Beadle and Tatum at the Institute sometimes during the day and in the evening we shall all meet at his home. In the afternoon there will be a reception given by the Lord Chancellor, the President of the Nobel Foundation. Wednesday is the day of the festival itself which starts in the afternoon and goes on until late in the night. **No** other plans will be made for this day. Thursday night is the dinner in the Royal Castle. Friday: see above.

So far, this is all and it may not seem too much but many things may turn up which we cannot foresee at the moment. As to the invitations you have already declined, I think you have acted wisely. The Medical Students' Lucia Festival is perhaps a pity to miss, at least for them. Having the Nobel prize winners as their guests for Lucia is one of their traditional privileges. If there would be one chance that you could make it I think it would be appreciated, even if you could only come for a short time.

I can certainly appreciate all the complications that may arise from the collision between your moving to Stanford and the Nobel prize. I am sure that you have a very hectic time and I hope that you will be able to rest at least a little in Stockholm. The postponement of your Nobel lecture I personally regret but fully understand. I am afraid it would be quite impossible to have your lecture after May 31 because practically everybody leaves town in June. Even if you would have formal right to do so, I think that it would be most unfortunate. On the other hand, any time before May 31 would be perfectly all right. Please do not overestimate the level required for this lecture; since it will be given to an extremely mixed public where the frequency of bacterial geneticists would be equal to zero or at least not significantly different from it, I think that any of the beautiful reviewing lectures you have given on previous occasions on bacterial heredity would be perfectly suitable. Personally, we shall be delighted to see you again during the next term.

We expect to be away in France and Belgium in March <sup>and</sup> I shall be in Texas for a few days in February. With the exception of these <sup>trips</sup> ~~things~~ we shall be here until June 15th. But again, I should very seriously advise you not to mention dates after May 31; if the Nobel Committee discusses it <sup>at</sup> all, it is nothing but sheer courtesy and fine manners.

We shall certainly take care of your formal clothing and I have already contacted the firm. We should need your measurements as soon as possible, certainly before December 5. I think that you will probably not need anything in addition to a dark suit and a white tie. A tuxedo will not be necessary unless some surprises turn up from e.g. the American Embassy. Eva shall write to Esther about her clothing below.

Many thanks for your letter about Morse which finally arrived after some delay; it was sent by ordinary mail and not by airmail because of the included photocopy. Perhaps it would be best if you discussed this with Malmgren while you are here. This is not a Nobel Institute proposition.

Many thanks for <sup>the</sup> ~~your~~ wonderful pictures of you <sup>which</sup> we are very glad to have. I expect to see you at the airport on Sunday at 9<sup>30</sup> p.m. (SK502) unless you advise me otherwise in the meantime. We wish you a good trip and looking forward to see you soon,

as ever,

*Levee*